

**Bay Delta Conservation Plan (BDCP)**  
**Steering Committee (SC) Meeting**  
July 25, 2008, 9:00 a.m. to 11:00 a.m.  
Resources Agency Building, Room 1311

Draft Meeting Notes

**Associated documents/handouts:**

- Agenda
- Draft Overview of the BDCP Development Process
- Letter to Congressional Group
- Draft BDCP Communication Protocol
- Draft Criteria and Process Regarding Membership on the Bay Delta Conservation Plan Steering Committee

**Action Items and Key Decisions**

**Updates**

- Jill Duerig, General Manager of Zone 7 Water Agency, and Don Glaser, Mid-Pacific Regional Director for the U.S. Bureau of Reclamation (USBR), were introduced
- PPIC Report is out and the authors may be providing a presentation to the Steering Committee at the next meeting
- DWR will be sending letters to invite landowners in the Delta to meetings to discuss access for land surveys related to potential BDCP conveyance and conservation actions. There will be eight landowner meetings during the month of August.
- Report on the Delta Protection Commission (DPC) July 24, 2008 meeting. The discussion was focused on BDCP. Many local elected officials indicated they were not aware of the letters being sent out to the landowners. They were concerned about getting representation at the BDCP "table." The local officials also expressed a desire to have better access to BDCP working groups and technical teams. There is concern at the DPC over lack of information about BDCP.
- SC members requested a briefing on the status of the DPC Delta Land Use and Resource Management Plan update.
- Judge Wanger has requested an August 29 update from NMFS. On September 4, he will schedule hearings to consider remedial measures. The new Biological Opinion from NMFS will be due on March 2, 2009.
- State Water Resources Control Board adopted their Strategic Plan this week. They will be scheduling an evidentiary hearing. The Board intends to conduct fact finding regarding salinity sources, variable salinity, Delta outflows, and other topics. They are beginning discussions on state-wide regulations for urban water conservation. Strong coordination between BDCP and the Board is important.
- DFG, FWS, NMFS, DWR and the Corps gave a presentation to the Delta Vision Task Force to provide input on the DV draft Strategic Plan. A significant issue concerns the way in which the federal government could fit into the proposed DV governance structure.
- DWR has a contract with USGS to expand the Twitchell Island carbon sequestration/land subsidence reversal experiment to a "farm-size scale" beginning spring 2009.

**Climate Change Presentations**

Melanie Rowland (NOAA Office of General Counsel) organized the presentations today. The fish agencies are concerned about climate change effects on fish and wildlife. The fish agencies wanted to have information presented early in the process on the effects of climate change on species relevant to

the BDCP. Three experts gave presentations: Steve Lindley from Southwest Fisheries Center of NMFS, Bill Bennett from UC Davis, and Frances Chung from DWR.

California Salmon in a Changing Climate—Steve Lindley  
(see Associated Documents and Handouts)

Climate Change and Resident Delta Fishes—Bill Bennett  
(see Associated Documents and Handouts)

Overview of Climate Change Modeling at DWR—Frances Chung  
(see Associated Documents and Handouts)

SC members raised several questions to the presenters concerning a number of issues including: how habitat complexity will be addressed, effect of other stressors, bottom line effects of climate change (the agencies have not reached conclusions as of yet), control of cold water in the system, use of temperature standards with reservoir releases, cold water refugia, the potential for flooding Suisun Marsh, modeling sea level rise, and the need to address upstream issues. Members also discussed the need for a robust adaptive management program as part of the BDCP and for the working groups and technical teams to consider climate change issues as they develop conservation measures.

#### **Updated Overview of BDCP Conservation Plan Development Process in 2008**

An update on the BDCP Development Process was presented, which included a discussion regarding the start of DRERIP coarse level evaluations of draft conservation actions the following week.

#### **Working Groups and Technical Teams**

##### **Public Outreach Liaisons Working Group**

Keith Coolidge reporting: Secretary Chrisman has begun meeting with elected local officials from the Delta region. The elected officials reacted positively and requested that the Secretary hold regular meetings. The meetings will be monthly and will cover all Delta programs, not just BDCP. Local officials expressed a desire to become an “integral part of the BDCP.” Additional town hall meetings are being planned. Members discussed at length the current SC policy regarding distribution of working group and technical team materials.

Meetings with adjacent HCP/NCCP programs are ongoing both at the higher staff levels as well as the technical staff levels.

A suggestion was made for BDCP Outreach to extend to wildlife refuges in the vicinity of the Delta.

Meetings with refuge representatives have been conducted or are being scheduled.

A small group of SC members met with North Delta Cares and they have extended an invitation to SC members to tour the Clarksburg area. The tour is targeted for August 7, 2008. This will be a mini tour not a big SC Delta tour.

##### **Membership Working Group**

Ann Hayden reports the group has received three applications for membership from North Delta Cares, Friant Water Users Authority, and North Delta Water Authority. The WG indicated that they may consider updating membership criteria. They will be arranging for interviews. SC will have to address the appropriate overall size of the SC.

##### **Science Liaisons Working Group**

Will Stelle reporting: The contract status of Wayne Spencer has been resolved. Wayne is working on an independent science workshop for early September.

#### **Other Stressors and Water Quality Working Groups**

Brent Walthall (co-chair) reporting. WG is on a 2 week hiatus.

### **Habitat Restoration Technical Team**

Habitat TT on hiatus while consultant works on conservation measures for DRERIP evaluations next week.

### **Implementing Structure/Governance Working Group**

Roger Patterson (co-chair) reporting: The group is working on governance structure regarding the implementation of habitat restoration actions. During the next 3 weeks they will focus on governance structure for conveyance-related actions.

### **Conveyance Working Group**

Ann Hayden reported on HOTT. They will be refining goals over the next 3 weeks. They are addressing a range of uncertainties and flexibility analysis, Hood Bypass flows, X2, and San Joaquin River flows. Jerry Johns reported on the Fish Facilities TT. They have completed a design matrix of pros and cons of various approaches to fish screen location and design. They are considering multiple intake/screen locations, possibly three to five locations (3,000-4,000 cfs each).

### **Biological Goals and Objectives Working Group**

Will Stelle reporting: There is active discussion about the need to improve the most recent draft of biological goals and objectives. The WG will reconvene in September. A summary was given of the memo written by the NGOs to define measureable goals.

### **Public Comment**

Melinda Terry from North Delta Water Authority asked for clarification as to whether the Habitat TT and HOTT have actually been out in the field to verify their data or are they only using maps, elevation information, and computer modeling. Paul Cylinder responded that the data used by the Habitat TT and HOTT is based on both remotely sensed information and on-ground field studies.

Barbara Byrne from the Planning and Conservation League commented on the need to consider upstream operations, upstream conservation actions, and adaptive management. In addition, she raised Judge Wanger's reference to the project impacts that extend beyond the Delta. She encourages governance to address adaptive management. She expressed concern that past focus has been on exporting as much as possible with conservation coming second. She suggests focusing on conservation up front and then increasing exports if necessary, and encourages the bottom up approach rather than the top down.

Oshe Meserve representing the city of Antioch mentioned that they have submitted a brief letter to describe uses of in-Delta water by Antioch. In addition, they have requested that any modeling done include specifically the impacts to Antioch's water point of diversion of the various options being considered and that this be done earlier rather than later. They hope this will encourage dialogue between their modeling experts and the experts working on the BDCP modeling. Antioch was part of the meeting last night and there is still great concern about in-Delta representation on BDCP. Oshe believes in-Delta interests have a lot of information that could be shared with the BDCP process to evaluate conservation efforts. She commented on accessibility to information from working group. She suggested that access to information could be improved by putting tapes of working group sessions online. Antioch would like to hear about special role for cities and counties or opportunities to apply for membership.

SC members discussed the ongoing process for involving in-Delta interests more fully. The expectation is that with the meetings with Secretary Chrisman and local officials a workable solution will be forthcoming.

U.S. Bureau of Reclamation is working to balance water operations both upstream and in the Delta. They are consulting with NMFS and USFWS to work together to balance their resources. Furthermore, the

Bureau wants to remind the SC that there is not only one alternative, but as we move toward a draft EIR/EIS, multiple alternatives will be addressed.

## **Attendees**

### *Management and Representatives*

Karen Scarborough (Chair, Resources Agency)  
Marc Ebbin (Resources Agency/DWR)  
Will Stelle (Resources Agency)  
Laura King Moon (State Water Contractors)  
Tom Howard (SWRCB)  
Jerry Johns (DWR)  
Don Glaser (USBR)  
Ann Lubas-Williams (USBR)  
Brent Walthall (Kern County Water District)  
Roger Patterson (Metropolitan)  
Jason Peltier (Westlands)  
Jill Duerig (Zone 7)  
Kim Delfino (Defenders of Wildlife)  
Ann Hayden (Environmental Defense)  
Greg Thomas (Natural Heritage Institute)  
Anthony Saracino (The Natural Conservancy)  
Gary Bobker (The Bay Institute)  
Greg Gartrell (Contra Costa Water District)  
Carl Wilcox (DFG)  
John Engbring (USFWS)  
Ted Meyers (NMFS)  
Paul Cylinder (SAIC)

### *On phone*

Ara Azhderian (SLDMWA)  
Ron Kino (Mirant)  
Chris Scheuring (CFBF)

### *Other attendees*

See sign-in sheets

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